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கனம் திரு. எம். பக்தவத்சலம் : கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, கனம் உறுப்பினர் அவர்களே குறிப்பிட்டார்கள், இந்தச் சட்டம் இந்த மன்றத்தினால் இயற்றப்பட்டது என்றும், உயர் நீதி மன்றம் அண்மையில் அதில் ஒரு தீர்ப்புக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறது என்றும், அதன் மீது உடனடியாக அரசாங்கம் ஏதோ செய்யவில்லை என்றோ அல்லது செய்ய வேண்டும் என்றோ விவாதிக்க இடம் இல்லை என்பதைக் குறிப்பிட விரும்புகிறேன். இந்த நிலையில் இதற்கு மேல் அரசாங்கம் என்ன செய்ய வேண்டும், சுப்ரீம் கோர்ட்டுக்கு அப்பீல் செய்ய, இடம் இருக்கிறதா என்று பரிசீலனை செய்ய வேண்டும். ஹைகோர்ட்டார் தீர்ப்புக் கொடுத்தால், அதை ஏற்றுக் கொண்டு சட்டத்தை எப்படி மாற்றுவது என்பதையும் யோசிக்க வேண்டும். இதெல்லாம் ஒரு நாள், இரண்டு நாளில் முடிவு எடுக்கக் கூடியது அல்ல. சட்ட ஆலோசகர்களைக் கலந்து ஆலோசித்து, என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க வேண்டும் என்பது பற்றி கவனம் செலுத்த வேண்டும். இதில் அரசாங்கத்தின் மீது புகார் சொல்ல ஒன்றும் இடம் இல்லை. இதில் விவாதிக்கவும் ஒன்றும் இல்லை. ஆகவே, இது ஒத்திவைப்பு பிரேரணைக்கு உரியது அல்ல என்று தெரிவிக்கிறேன்.

MR. SPEAKER : Consent is withheld.

III—CALLING ATTENTION TO CLOSURE OF INDUSTRIES DUE TO SHORTAGE OF ELECTRICITY.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Sir, I call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Industries to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, partial closure of industries and dislocation in the State due to shortage of electricity. I request the Hon. Minister to make a statement.

* THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Owing to the thorough failure of the South West Monsoon in 1965, the hydel storages in the State were not filled up last year and they had only about 15 per cent of the full reservoir conditions by the middle of October 1965. It was found that this storage, would not be enough to meet the requirements of power till the onset of the next South West Monsoon. In order to conserve power, a conference of the industrialists of the State was held on 18th October to discuss the situation. It was decided to impose a cut on the power consumption of all industries except certain essential industries, with effect from 1st November 1965. In the case of H.T. Industrial Consumers, a cut of 25 per cent of the energy consumed was imposed. The cut in the Madras Thermal area was restricted to 20 per cent. In the case of low tension supply the cut was fixed at 25 per cent both in the hydel and thermal areas. Industries having their own generators were allowed to use them and the power so produced was exempted from consumption tax.

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We have negotiated with the Government of Mysore and arranged for the purchase of 400 Million Units of power. This has enabled the Government to reduce the cut to 10 per cent in the case of certain continuous process industries, like cement, sugar, aluminium and newspapers and domestic bulk supplies. Additional power was given to many units, engaged in defence production and other vital lines of production. All new industries were given power for the night shift. These exemptions resulted in reducing the effective cut to about 7 per cent.

As a result of the power cut, there has been a fall in production and consequent lay off of the labour in the industry. The fall in production has been estimated at about 5 per cent in the continuous process industries and about 10 to 15 per cent in other industries. But this cannot be attributed solely to the power cut, as there were other factors like the shortage of raw materials, difficulties in foreign exchange and tight money market conditions that affected the industrial production. As regards textiles, the accumulation of stocks was an important factor which, along with the power cut, reduced the production and caused closure of four mills and resulted in the retrenchment of about 350 employees. Actual figures about the short fall in production and retrenchment and lay-off of workers are not available.

This year's power failure has once again pointed out to the need to increase the thermal content of the power grid in the State in the context of the industrial advancement of our State. The Ennore plant and the Kalpakkam plant, the Neyveli Expansion and the Tuticorin thermal plant will, to some extent, meet this imbalance between the hydel and the thermal generations, towards the end of the fourth plan.

IV.—ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(1) NOMINATION TO BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

MR. SPEAKER : Under Rule 193 (1) of the Madras Legislative Assembly Rules, I hereby nominate the following members to be members of the Business Advisory Committee :—

1. Sri K. Parthasarathy, Deputy Speaker.
2. Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Leader of the House.
3. Hon. Sri V. Ramaiah.
4. Hon. Sri P. Kakkan.
5. Sri P. Ramachandran, Government Whip.
6. Sri V. R. Nedunchezhian.
7. Sri Saw. Ganesan.
8. Sri M. Kalyanasundaram.
9. Sri K. R. Nallasivam.
10. Sri T. P. Elumalai.

The Speaker is the ex-officio Chairman of the Committee.